



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Raised Bill No. 980

LCO No. 3308

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Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

AN ACT CONCERNING PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL STUDY FOSTER PARENTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-114 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "licensed" means a person holds a license
4 issued by the Department of Children and Families to provide foster
5 care, including foster care of a specific child, and "special study foster
6 parent" means a person who is twenty-one years of age or older and
7 who does not hold a license issued by the Department of Children and
8 Families to provide foster care.

9 (b) (1) No child in the custody of the Commissioner of Children and
10 Families shall be placed with any person, unless such person is
11 licensed for that purpose by the department or the Department of
12 Developmental Services pursuant to the provisions of section 17a-227,
13 or such person's home is approved by a child placing agency licensed
14 by the commissioner pursuant to section 17a-149. Any person licensed
15 by the department may be a prospective adoptive parent. The

16 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
17 provisions of chapter 54, to establish the licensing procedures and
18 standards.

19 (2) The commissioner shall require each applicant for licensure
20 pursuant to this section and any person sixteen years of age or older
21 living in the household of such applicant to submit to state and
22 national criminal history records checks prior to issuing a license to
23 such applicant to accept placement of a child. Such criminal history
24 records checks shall be conducted in accordance with section 29-17a.
25 The commissioner shall also check the state child abuse registry
26 established pursuant to section 17a-101k for the name of such
27 applicant and for the name of any person sixteen years of age or older
28 living in the household of such applicant.

29 (c) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (b) of this
30 section, the commissioner may place a child with a relative who is not
31 licensed, a nonrelative, if such child's sibling who is related to the
32 caregiver is also placed with such caregiver or [, if the child is ten years
33 of age or older,] with a special study foster parent for a period of up to
34 ninety days when such placement is in the best interests of the child,
35 provided a satisfactory home visit is conducted, a basic assessment of
36 the family is completed and such relative, nonrelative or special study
37 foster parent attests that such relative, nonrelative or special study
38 foster parent and any adult living within the household has not been
39 convicted of a crime or arrested for a felony against a person, for injury
40 or risk of injury to or impairing the morals of a child, or for the
41 possession, use or sale of a controlled substance. Any such relative,
42 nonrelative or special study foster parent who accepts placement of a
43 child in excess of such ninety-day period shall be subject to licensure
44 by the commissioner, except that any such relative who, prior to July 1,
45 2001, had been certified by the commissioner to provide care for a
46 related child may continue to maintain such certification if such
47 relative continues to meet the regulatory requirements and the child
48 remains in such relative's care. The commissioner may grant a waiver

49 from such procedure or standard, except any safety standard, for a
50 child placed with a relative, on a case-by-case basis, from such
51 procedure or standard, except any safety standard, based on the home
52 of the relative and the needs and best interests of such child. The
53 reason for any waiver granted shall be documented in writing. The
54 commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
55 provisions of chapter 54, to establish certification procedures and
56 standards for a caregiver under this section. For purposes of this
57 subsection, "sibling" includes a stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother or
58 half-sister.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	July 1, 2011	17a-114
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Statement of Purpose:

To eliminate the age restriction for placement with special study foster parents.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]